

CHARTER

I. Official Designation:

Advisory Committee on the Bird Banding Laboratory.

II. Scope and Objectives:

The Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), on the conduct and activities of the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL). The purpose of the Committee will be to represent the interests of the bird banding community, including both game and non-game birds, in advising the Federal Government on current and future management of the BBL. The Committee will provide advice and guidance to assist the BBL in fulfilling its essential and primary role of supporting the needs of regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Canadian Wildlife Service, and state fish and game agencies, while also addressing the emerging needs of the larger conservation and research communities.

III Duration:

The Committee will exist from the date of the Charter until its purpose is achieved or this Charter has been revoked or not renewed.

IV. Agency or Official to whom the Committee Reports:

The Committee reports to the Secretary of the Interior, through the Associate Director for Biology, USGS, and the Assistant Director for Migratory Birds, USFWS, and the Directors for both bureaus.

V. Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support:

Support services for the activities of the Committee will be provided by the offices of the Assistant Director for Biology, USGS, and the Assistant Director for Migratory Birds, USFWS.

VI. Estimated Annual Operating Costs:

The estimated annual operating costs associated with supporting the committee's functions are estimated to be \$90,000, including all direct and indirect expenses. It is estimated that 0.5 FTE will be required to support the Committee.

VII. Description of Duties:

The Committee will develop a clear, concise report defining a vision for the BBL over the next ten to fifteen years, and recommending priority actions that should be taken to address the needs of the regulatory agencies, bird conservation, research, and banding communities to ensure BBL excellence into the 21st century. More specifically, the Committee will address, at a minimum, the following topics:

- A. Bands and banding techniques, technologies, and sources;
- B. Data and information acquisition, interpretation, analysis, use, management, and delivery;
- C. Integration of a research component into the operational aspects of the Laboratory;
- D. Opportunities to expand the utility of existing information to better address the needs of researchers, managers, regulators, and policy-makers;
- E. Partnerships nationally and internationally including the scope of an expansion (including the 1-800 telephone number for reporting band recoveries) of the cooperative international program to Mexico, Central and South America;
- F. Enhancement of fiscal resources and human capabilities;
- G. The appropriate roles of the public and private sectors in future BBL planning, advice, and guidance.

VIII. Allowances for Committee Members (compensation, travel, per diem, etc.):

Members will serve without compensation for their services on the Committee. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5703, nonfederal members will be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred while performing official business of the Committee.

IX. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

It is anticipated that the Committee will meet at least two times per year, and at such other times as designated by the Chair

X. Termination Date:

The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date this Charter is filed unless prior to that date it is renewed by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix (1988).

XI. Committee Membership:

The Committee will consist of 13 members, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The members will be representatives selected from among, but not limited to the following interest groups:

- A. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- B. Canadian bird banders
- C. State wildlife conservation agencies
- D. Academia
- E. Professional and technical ornithological societies
- F. Non-profit bird conservation organizations
- G. Non-profit wildlife conservation organizations
- H. Waterfowl hunting organizations
- I. Upland game bird-hunting organizations
- J. Professional ornithologists
- K. Bird banding organizations

Both sponsoring bureaus (USGS and USFWS) collaborated and concurred on the selection of organizations and interest groups to be represented by committee members. The organizations were selected because each has a strong vested interest in the BBL's success, and collectively they represent the broad, diverse, and changing community of banders and/or banding data users. The USGS Status and Trends of Biological Resources Program Coordinator, or his/her designee, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer, as required by Section 10 of the FACA.

XII. Ethics Responsibilities of Members:

A member may not participate in matters that will directly affect, or appear to affect, the financial interests of the member or the member's spouse or minor children, unless authorized by the DFO. Compensation from employment does not constitute a financial interest of the member so long as the matter before the committee will not have a special or distinct effect on the member or the member's employer, other than as part of a class. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

XIII. Subgroups:

The Committee may establish such workgroups or subcommittees as it deems necessary for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such workgroups may not conduct business and must report to the full Committee.

XIV. Authority:

The Committee will operate in conformance with:

- A. Authority provided by the Secretary's charge to supervise the public business relating to activities of the USGS, 43 U.S.C. 1457 (1988); and
- B. In addition, authority is contained in annual appropriations language establishing USGS responsibilities related to biological resources, including biological research and monitoring.

Secretary of the Interior

May 05, 2005

Date Signed

Date Filed